MLS (Microwave Limb Sounder)

- Technique: Microwave emission (3 radiometers, 63 GHz, 183 GHz, 204 GHz)
- Data timespan: Fall 1991 to Summer 2001 (last turn-on); best coverage is prior to 1995 (instrument scanning and satellite problems after this).
- Data Coverage, Resolution: Coverage -34° to 80° or -80° to 34°, because of 36 day "yaw periods"; 1317 profiles/day (day & night) [if continuous operation]. Resolution: vert. ~ 3 5 km, horiz. FOV width ~ 7 km, LOS smearing ~250 km.

Data Products:

- > No strat. H₂O data after mid-April 1993 [failure of 183 GHz radiometer]
- > No Temp. data after June 1997 [power sharing, no more 63 GHz radiometer data]
- > Since June 1997:
 - Stratospheric O₃, CIO, HNO₃ (accuracy ~ 6%, 15%, 10 30%)
 - Upper Tropospheric Humidity (UTH) [~ 460 to 150 hPa] (accuracy ~ 20 30%)
 - Also, CH₃CN (zonal mean) data (accuracy not validated); volcanically enhanced SO₂ is also retrievable.
- UARS MLS could be activated for Aura validation in 2004, but with uncertain and spotty data coverage (UARS power sharing) [assuming instrument performs well].

HALOE (Halogen Occultation Experiment)

- Technique: Solar occultation in IR (wideband and gas correlation channels) gives upper atmospheric profiles at the terminator (sunset and sunrise).
- Data timespan: Fall 1991 to now; no problems, expect very good data for Aura validation.
- Data Coverage, Resolution: Sweep slowly from 80° to 80° (over a month). 15 sunsets and 15 sunrises/day (each in a narrow latitude band). Vertical resolution ~ 1.6 km.
- Data Products and Vertical Ranges (accuracies are typically ~ 5 to 15%):
 - O₃: tropopause to ~90 km
 - H₂O: tropopause to ~80 km
 - HCI: tropopause to ~60 km
 - HF: tropopause to ~60 km
 - CH₄: tropopause to ~80 km
 - NO: tropopause to ~130 km
 - NO₂: tropopause to ~60 km
 - Temp: ~ 30 km to ~ 80 km
 - Aerosol extinction (4 channels, 2.5 to 5.3 mm): strat. + noctilucent clouds (~80 km)
- Data availability: Request from HALOE website (small files, with ~ 1 month delay).